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BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

(L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.San.I.)

1954

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1954

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BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

HEALTH COMMITTEE

December, 1954

CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLOR DR. S. H. BROWN

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, COUN. A. COCKCROFT, J.P.

ALDERMAN L. F. COCKCROFT, J.P.
,, W. EGERTON, J.P.
,, F. SUNDERLAND

COUNCILLOR G. E. BOOTHMAN
,, H. COCKCROFT
,, H. CUNLIFFE
,, J. GRAHAM
,, H. IVESON
,, H. V. POWELL
,, E. R. SYKES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

Medical Officer of Health
J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health
NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector
†L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector
†C. BAXTER, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk
MRS. E. E. WADDILOVE, C.R.SAN.I.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19

Divisional Medical Officer
As above (M.O.H.).

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer
NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer
ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

Medical Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic
*MILDRED M. THIERENS, M.B.

School Dental Officer
*J. I. JAGGER, L.D.S.

Health Visitors
‡MRS. M. M. ILLINGWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.
‡MISS J. ALEXANDER, S.R.N., S.C.M.
‡MRS. A. LUNT, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor
MRS. B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker
MISS E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified)
MRS. M. H. GRAHAM, B.A. (commenced Dec., 1953).

Home Nurses

Miss F. Robinson, s.r.n., s.c.m., queen's nurse (transferred away 22.1.54.).

Miss F. M. Burdett, s.r.n., s.c.m., queen's nurse (temporary, ceased 28.2.54).

Mrs. N. Redding, s.r.n., queen's nurse (temporary, commenced 4.1.54, ceased 21.9.54).

Miss R. Stocks, s.r.n. (temporary, commenced 1.2.54, ceased 31.8.54).

Miss V. J. Miles, s.r.n., queen's nurse (commenced 1-9-54)

Miss G. M. Pratt, s.r.n., queen's nurse (commenced 1-9-54)

Home Nurse/Midwife

Miss A. B. Hobson, s.r.n., s.c.m., queen's nurse,

Midwives

Miss P. Stansfield, s.c.m.

Dental Attendant

Miss J. Tweddle (transferred away, 28.2.54).

Mrs. L. Barker (commenced 1.2.54).

Joint Clerical Staff—engaged in all constituent districts of the Division, viz. Todmorden, Hebden Royd, Hepton, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden.

H. Marshall, a.c.i.s.

Miss J. Sutcliffe

*Mrs. J. Greenwood (resigned 19.5.54).

F. H. Uttley (resigned 6.1.54).

J. Greenwood.

Miss P. Jackson.

D. Howorth.

Mrs. M. Leah.

Miss A. Y. Alcock.

D. Thomas (commenced 25.1.54).

Mrs. M. Redfern (commenced 24.5.54).

Mrs. J. Bailey (commenced 14.7.54).

* Part-time.

† Hold Meat Inspection Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute

‡ Hold Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Consultant Staff

Orthopaedic Surgeon

G. Hyman, m.b., f.r.c.s.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon

W. O. Lodge, m.d., f.i.c.s., f.r.c.s.(edin.).

Chest Physician

Bertram Mann, b.sc., m.d., d.p.h.

Ophthalmic Surgeon

P. M. Wood, m.b., Ch.b., m.r.c.p., d.o.m.s.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

October, 1955.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the eighth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Urban Districts of Hebden Royd, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year under review once again demonstrate a trend characteristic of the Calder Valley. A further fall in the birth rate brought it down to 12.3 per 1,000 population as compared with 15.2 for England and Wales, whilst deaths in Todmorden exceeded births by 14. The relatively low proportion of young people in the community is partly but not wholly responsible for the low birth rate. Most mothers find the financial inducement of employment in industry more attractive than the State's offer of children's and maternity allowances. The loom is preferred to the cradle, not really by choice but because of the desire to ensure financial security for the family. The historic instability of the cotton industry forms the background to this attitude of mind, which is further encouraged by the inability of men in local industry to achieve the earning power common in those areas where coal-mining and other heavy industries are predominant.

It is easy to criticise these mothers; clearly their domestic efficiency must suffer if they go out to work, and their children may sometimes have to tolerate what is in effect a third-rate bed-and-breakfast hotel rather than a home. But is this worse for the children than the emotional and physical deprivation which can result from living with a worried, frustrated, irritable mother who is finding it increasingly difficult to maintain a reasonable standard of living on her husband's wage alone? There is no simple answer to this question. Circumstances can vary so greatly between different families. One can only hope that the decision to go out to work is

not made too lightly and that the financial benefits of employment are devoted to the legitimate needs of the children. Todmorden is a long way from Utopia, a fact which might well be borne in mind by the County Council in the evolution of its policy on Day Nurseries.

Another notable feature of the 1954 statistics is the continued absence of maternal mortality. Todmorden now has the proud record of having had nearly 2,500 births without a single maternal death, a great tribute to the efficiency of midwives and doctors.

There was no undue incidence of infectious disease during the year under review, notifications of all the common diseases (including tuberculosis) being less numerous than in 1953. In contrast the incidence of cancer and of the degenerative diseases, including coronary disease, remains at a high level due very largely to the disproportionate number of aged persons in the community. Deaths from these diseases, whilst commoner in the older age groups, are by no means confined to them, and it is illogical and unwise to dismiss them as mere complications of senility. There is room for considerably more research than is at present undertaken into the epidemiology of these diseases, especially research into the environmental and social factors which may predispose individuals to these conditions or accelerate their course. Research of this nature can be carried out by Public Health Departments at remarkably little cost and would supplement and reinforce the work already being done by pathologists and bio-chemists, but its success would depend on the closest possible collaboration with hospitals and general practitioners. Unfortunately the formidable administrative barriers now existing between Public Health Departments and other branches of the Health Service render very difficult the organisation of this wider field of preventive medicine. The Minister of Health could give a lead by providing the conditions for a closer professional relationship between Medical Officers of Health and Hospital Consultants. In so doing he could, in the long run, reap immeasurable benefits for both the community and its economy. Prevention is not only better than cure, it is also cheaper.

The care of the aged continues to be a major pre-occupation of the Health Department. The Home Nurses, Health Visitors and Home Helps work in close co-operation with general practitioners and also with the various voluntary

and statutory organisations interested in this increasingly important field of human service. The aim of the Health Department is to keep the old folk as happy and as healthy as possible—and for as long as possible—in their own homes, which is where they most want to be. Only as a last resort is welfare accommodation recommended, yet the size of the problem is measured by the steadily increasing difficulty experienced in securing the admission of even this relatively small hard core of cases. The rate of expansion of County Council Welfare Homes appears to be falling behind the rapid growth in the demand for this service. This growth is in part due to the increasing numbers of aged persons in the community but is accelerated by the gradual fading of the deeply-rooted prejudice against welfare homes, a relic of workhouse days. One must add that this prejudice has not yet disappeared to the point at which applications for admission are made for frivolous or inadequate reasons. All the applications known to the Health Department have been based on strong and valid grounds. The acquisition of Scaitcliffe Hall by the County Welfare Department is a welcome move in the right direction, but it can only ameliorate the position to a very limited degree. It seems likely that most of the places will be taken by Todmorden patients transferred from more distant welfare homes and the effect of this new accommodation will therefore be to increase slightly the reservoir of the County area as a whole rather than to deal effectively with local demands.

The year 1954 was also notable for the beginning of the long-overdue housing survey. This district has inherited a terrible legacy from the Industrial Revolution as the result of which a large part of the population is still having to tolerate a standard of housing considerably below accepted modern standards. Discomfort, discord, mental irritation and, at times, disease represent the price paid by the community for the perpetuation of these conditions. The number of houses "unfit for habitation" within the meaning of the Housing Acts is so large that one cannot at present anticipate a complete solution of the problem in the foreseeable future. Even a modified programme of clearance and redevelopment, though urgently necessary, is fraught with difficulties for, as in the case of child health, economic factors cannot be ignored. It is, for example, conceivable that the increase in rent involved in moving from a "slum clearance" house to a post-war Council house may be so large as to make it difficult or impossible for many families to make the appropriate adjustments to their standard of living. Any such failure

would inevitably be reflected in the state of nutrition, health and happiness of every member of the family so cancelling the potential benefits derived from new and improved living accommodation. The Council house would in effect be reduced to a monument to the good intentions of the local authority. Administrative expedients may be devised to lessen the size of this obstacle for the most dependent section of the community but it should not be forgotten that the *basic* cause of the trouble is the disproportionately high cost of post-war building. It is towards the removal of this cause that both central and local government should direct their efforts, for the progress of any slum clearance programme must in the long run depend on the degree to which the cost can be met by the combined resources of the Corporation, prospective tenants and the general public.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I thank you for your kindness, patience and co-operation? I also wish to express my deep appreciation of the consistently loyal and energetic work of the staff of this Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. LYONS,
M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics.

Area. 12,790 acres.

Population—Census 1951. 19,072 persons.

Registrar General's estimate of
Resident Population, mid. 1954, 18,600.

Number of dwelling-houses, 7,109.

Rateable value £116,645.

Product of a penny rate (est.) £462.

Rainfall at Gorpley Reservoir during 1954, 77·21 inches

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births– Legitimate Illegitimate	222 6	122 1	100 5	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12.3
Still Births- Legitimate Illegitimate	11 —	9 —	2 —	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 46·0
Deaths	243	116	127	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 13.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

	Deaths		Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	...	Nil

Infantile Mortality.

Eight infants under the age of twelve months died during 1954, giving an infantile mortality rate of 35.1 per 1000 births.

The following table gives the cause of death of these infants.

Cause of Death	No. of infants dying in				
	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	5—52 week
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Hydrocephalus ...	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart disease ...	—	1	—	—	—
Spina bifida ...	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity ...	2	—	—	—	—
Broncho pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1

DEATHS FROM	Cancer (all ages)	46
	Measles (all ages)	Nil
	Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all forms)	0.16
Respiratory Tuberculosis death rate	0.16
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis death rate	Nil
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding tuberculosis)	1.34

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TODMORDEN, M.B.

	CAUSE OF DEATH	1953 M.	1953 F.	1954 M.	1954 F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	—	1	2
2	Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	1	1	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	2	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	7	5	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1	4	2
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	2	—	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	—	6
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	9	10	13
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	1	—	—
16	Diabetes	1	1	1	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	29	15	17
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	24	10	23	13
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	4	4
20	Other heart disease	16	13	10	11
21	Other circulatory disease ...	8	11	9	9
22	Influenza	—	2	—	—
23	Pneumonia	1	3	3	5
24	Bronchitis	8	9	10	5
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	2	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2	1	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	—	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	2	1	3	5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	5	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	—	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformation ...	—	—	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	9	7	11
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	4	1	1	3
34	All other accidents	1	2	—	5
35	Suicide	2	—	1	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	124	122	116	127

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

based on the Registrar-General's Figures

	Todmorden M.B.	Hepton R.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Administrative County	England and Wales (provisional figures)
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) ...	12.3	13.3	12.1	14.2	11.7	14.7	15.1	15.2
Death Rates (all per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All causes	13.1	14.3	13.7	13.7	15.8	12.7	11.9	11.3
Infective and parasitic diseases*	—	—	0.10	0.11	—	0.07	0.08	**
Tuberculosis of respiratory system... ...	0.16	0.25	—	0.16	0.58	0.18	0.16	0.16
Other forms of tuberculosis...	—	—	0.10	—	—	0.01	0.02	0.02
Cancer...	2.47	2.71	2.60	2.59	3.85	2.12	2.01	2.04
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	1.72	2.96	1.80	2.00	2.12	2.03	1.84	**
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	4.46	4.43	5.09	5.68	5.96	4.88	4.54	**
Respiratory disease† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.34	1.97	1.20	1.03	0.77	1.27	1.22	**
Infant Mortality (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	35.1	55.6	33.1	19.0	49.2	28.3	28.0	25.5
Maternal Mortality (deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births) ...	—	—	—	—	—	0.80	0.89	0.69

* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles, and other infective and parasitic diseases (items 3 to 9 inclusive on page 12)

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system (items 18 to 21 inclusive on page 12)

† Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system (items 22 to 25 inclusive on page 12)

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

A. HOSPITALS.

There is no General Hospital in the Borough of Todmorden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, the Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Infectious Diseases Hospital, Shelf Sanatorium, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special Hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The West Riding County Council maintain an Ambulance Depot at Stansfield Road, Todmorden, with an establishment at the end of 1954 of a Depot Superintendent, eleven full-time Driver-Attendants, a Clerk/Telephonist and four vehicles. The area served covers Todmorden Borough, part of Hebden Royd U.D. area and the Hepton Rural District.

C. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

D. ISSUE OF ANTI-TOXIN, ETC.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Medical Centre, Todmorden, for use of local medical practitioners in the division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE

A. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare		
Ridgefoot	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	2 to 4-30 p.m.
Vale Baptist Sunday School, Cornholme	Tuesdays	2 to 4-30 p.m.
Walsden Wesley Sunday School ...	Thursdays	2 to 4-30 p.m.
Ante-Natal and Post Natal		
Ridgefoot	Wednesdays and Thursdays ...	1-30 to 4 p.m.
School Clinics		
Ridgefoot		
(*a*) *Minor Ailments	Mondays to Fridays inclusive ...	1-30 p.m.
(*b*) Dental...	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays	9-15 to 11-30 a.m.
(*c*) Ophthalmic	As required	By arrangement
(*d*) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	By arrangement
(*e*) Artificial Sunlight	Mondays and Fridays	By arrangement
Smallpox Vaccination		
Diphtheria Immunisation		
Whooping Cough Immunisation		
All Infant Welfare Centres	As required	By arrangement
Tuberculosis (by arrangement with Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee)		
Union Offices, Hall Street	Wednesdays	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.

* Medical Officer in attendance Wednesdays only.

B. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Ante Natal Services

During 1954 Dr. Thierens held 98 sessions and 159 patients made 882 attendances. The popularity of the clinic is shown in the table below :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number of patients	217	200	162	158	148	159
No. of attendances	992	1060	805	737	817	882
No. of sessions held	101	102	96	100	98	102
Patients sent by Midwives	40	30	23	5	8	12
Patients sent by Doctors	10	5	3	19	17	18
Patients sent by Health Visitors	50	20	14	9	12	29
Patients attended on own initiative	102	135	100	114	88	75
Patients sent by Hospitals	10	10	22	11	23	25
Patients sent by Private Nsg. Home	5	—	—	—	—	—
Patients referred to own doctor	20	20	6	9	20	24
Patients referred to Hospital	30	24	22	32	21	25
Patients referred to Dentist	16	9	26	6	10	31
Patients given U.V.R. treatment	—	—	—	5	4	1

X-ray examinations were arranged for four patients who had attended the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year.

Post Natal and Gynaecological Clinics.

Gynaecological and post-natal patients are examined at the ordinary ante-natal clinic. During 1954, 64 patients made 102 attendances at the clinic. Some of the patients confined in Halifax General Hospital attended there for post-natal examination.

	1951	1952	1953	1954
No. of post-natal patients ...	56	79	81	64
No. of attendances	88	139	134	102

Child Welfare Clinics.

Clinics were held at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and at Cornholme and Walsden on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons respectively. A record of the work done in 1954 is given in the following table :—

	Medical Centre	Wals-den	Corn-holme	Total
No. of sessions ..	101	52	49	202
No. of children who attended :—				
(a) Under 1 year old	107	50	37	194
(b) 1-5 years of age	188	138	65	391
No. of attendances by children :—				
(a) Under 1 year ..	1617	1018	804	3439
(b) 1-5 years ..	942	700	614	2256
Total attendances	2559	1718	1418	5695
Average attendance per session ..	25	34	28	28

Home Visiting by Health Visitors.

No. of Ante-Natal Visits :—	
First Visits	102
Subsequent Visits	128
No. of Visits to Children under 1 Year	
First Visits	279
Subsequent Visits	1251
No. of Visits to Children 1-5 Years ..	3122
Special Visits	1812
Total Home Visits ..	6694

Day Nursery Accommodation

The Glen Day Nursery was opened by the West Riding County Council on 11th September, 1950, and children may be admitted under a system of priorities by arrangement with the Divisional Medical Officer.

The Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

The Care of Illegitimate Children.

Every effort is made to find a suitable home for the baby either with the mother or with the grand-parents. When the child is old enough it can be admitted to a Day Nursery if the mother has to go out to work. Special advice about legal adoption is given if it is desired. These cases are seen in the home by the Health Visitor and encouraged to attend the Infant Welfare Centre regularly.

Minor Ailments Clinic.

During 1954 58 children under five years of age, some of whom were attending nursery classes, made 88 attendances for treatment at the Medical Centre.

U. V. L. Clinic.

This was held twice weekly at the Medical Centre during the winter months. A Sollux Mercury Vapour Lamp was used. 25 children not attending school, made 296 attendances for treatment.

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

Most proprietary brands of milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Clinics for the convenience of mothers and special brands of milk are ordered when necessary.

In addition the distribution of cod liver oil, orange juice, vitamin A and D tablets, and National Dried Milk, is carried out at the three Child Welfare Clinics on behalf of the Ministry of Food. The Ministry of Labour and National Service ceased to distribute these Welfare Foods on 30th June, 1954 and a full-time counter-service was instituted at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

C. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing.

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing in Todmorden, the two whole-time nurses being resident at the Nurses' Home, Garden Street, Todmorden. In addition, a Home Nurse/Midwife is responsible for the Cornholme etc., district.

Midwifery.

One whole-time midwife and a Home Nurse/Midwife (resident in their own homes) are employed by the County Council to serve the Todmorden area.

The following table shows the number of Todmorden women confined in hospital, private nursing home, or delivered by midwives and private practitioners in Todmorden or elsewhere so far as has been ascertained :

	No.	%
No. delivered in hospital	135	56·5
No. delivered in private nursing homes ...	2	·8
No. delivered by midwives...	102	42·7
No. delivered by doctors (including the difficult cases met with by municipal midwives in their practice where a doctor had to be sent for to effect delivery)	—	—
TOTAL (including stillbirths), so far as has been ascertained ...	239	100.0

During 1954 the practising midwives summoned medical assistance to 24 mothers and 7 infants. Medical aid was sent for on account of the following conditions :—

MOTHERS		INFANTS	
Cause	No.	Cause	No.
Ruptured perineum ...	10	Discharge from eyes ...	3
Prolonged labour... ...	4	Prematurity	1
Pyrexia	1	Asphyxia	1
Mastitis	1	Unsatisfactory condition	2
Ante-partum haemorrhage	4		
Toxaemia	1		
Premature labour ...	1		
Haemoptysis	1		
Phlebitis	1		
TOTAL	24	TOTAL	7

The following table summarises the midwifery work of the district midwives for the year 1954 :—

Work done within the Borough	Two WRCC Midwives
No. of deliveries made by Midwives ...	100
No. of difficult cases met with by midwives where a doctor had to be sent for and who	
(*a*) Effected delivery	—
(*b*) Sent patient to Hospital ...	—
No. of cases where midwives acted as a maternity nurse	—
Medical aid sent for in case of	
(*a*) Mothers	24
(*b*) Infants	7

Emergency Obstetric Unit.

The " flying squad " attached to Halifax General Hospital is available for obstetric emergencies occurring in the town.

Analgesia.

Both midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

D. HEALTH VISITING.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

E. HOME HELPS

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1954 109 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 94 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 15,007.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child not over compulsory school age."

Of the 109 cases attended in 1954, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 6 illness, 17 maternity, and 86 chronic sick.

F. CARE AND AFTER CARE

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

G. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Number of schools in district		16
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1954		2679
Number of children examined at school during 1954		1454
(This figure being made up as follows)		
Routine examinations	832	
Re-examinations	622	
Number of children referred for treatment		47

Minor Ailments Clinic

481 children made 1,429 attendances at the minor ailments clinic during the year.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic

Seven sessions were held by Mr. Lodge at the Medical Centre and 76 Todmorden children were seen by him. Of the children inspected at these and previous sessions 29 received operative treatment at either the Halifax General Hospital or the Halifax Royal Infirmary during 1954.

Dental Clinic.

During the year 124 Dental Clinics were held. The following table gives a record of the work done:

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT	
Number of children inspected	1292
Number of children offered treatment ...	1030
Number of children treated	756
Number of attendances	1089
NUMBER OF EXTRACTIONS	
Temporary teeth	1549
Permanent teeth	182
NUMBER OF FILLINGS	
Temporary teeth	351
Permanent teeth	399
NUMBER OF OTHER OPERATIONS	
Temporary	69
Permanent	3

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Mr. Wood held 25 eye clinics during the year, and 215 Todmorden school children were seen by him and glasses were prescribed where necessary.

U.V.L. Clinic.

52 school children made 687 attendances during the year.

H. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against small-pox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation

(i) Number of children in Todmorden who completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation, 1954

Age	0–1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1954 ...	89	98	10	6	11	13	7	11	2	3	3	3	—	—	1
Total ... 257															
Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1954 ...	—	—	—	1	43	120	76	51	38	33	35	17	1	—	3
Total ... 418															

(ii) Number of children in Todmorden who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-54

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
89	154	220	218	320	1077	1150	3228

Estimated mid-year population 3876 under 15 years

Whooping Cough Immunisation

(i) Number of children in Todmorden who completed a full course of whooping cough immunisation, 1954

Age at final injection	Under 6 mths.	6 mths. to 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	Total
No. immunised	2	115	60	25	10	212

During the year there were 43 notified cases of whooping cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date

Age at 31-12-54 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1954	1 1953	2 1952	3 1951	4 1950	5 1949	6 1948	Total
No. immunised	39	107	43	74	94	62	48	467

Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 105 people were vaccinated against smallpox, 85 of whom were children under one year of age.

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received during 1954.

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	11
Whooping Cough	43
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	1
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	17
Dysentery	3
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—
Erysipelas	3
Meningococcal infection	—
Food poisoning	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Benign Tertian Malaria	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4
	99

Tuberculosis Services.

A clinic is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons at Hall Street, and cases requiring X-ray examination are referred to the Chest Clinic at Halifax Royal Infirmary. Regular home supervision is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Free milk, bedding, shelters, etc., are provided by the County Council at the discretion of the Divisional Medical Officer if recommended by the Consultant Chest Physician in charge of the Clinic.

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Todmorden in 1954:—

	Respiratory			Non-Resp.			Ttls.
	M	F	Ttl.	M	F	Ttl	
No. on Register on 1st Jan., 1954 ..	65	40	105	18	14	32	137
No. first notified during 1954 ..	3	7	10	1	3	..	14
No. of cases restored to register ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
No. removed from Register during 1954 :—							
(a) Died	1	1	2	—	—	—	2
(b) Removed from district ..	6	2	8	—	—	—	8
(c) Recovered ..	3	3	6	3	5	8	14
No. remaining on Register 31/12/54 ..	59	41	100	16	13	29	129

The number of new cases and the number of deaths notified during 1954 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0–5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5–14	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
15–24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25–44	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
45–64	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	7	1	3	1	1	—	—

SECTION V.

WATER SUPPLIES

Corporation Supply.

Serving 5595 houses with a population of 14,640.

The water is from upland surfaces and is naturally soft and of an acid character. The water is treated by slow filtration through sand and lime dust. A chlorinator is installed at the waterworks. A bulk supply of water is also obtained from the Rochdale Corporation.

Samples of water before and after treatment were taken during the year with the following results:

Bacteriological	24 satisfactory, 4 unsatisfactory.
Chemical ...	11 satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory.
Plumbo-solvency	6—no lead in any.

The four unsatisfactory bacteriological samples and one unsatisfactory chemical were taken before filtration and chlorination, and appropriate action to remedy pollution of a stream discovered on the gathering ground was taken. The other unsatisfactory chemical report was on a sample taken from the water obtained from the Rochdale Corporation and the matter was being dealt with at the end of the year.

Private Supplies.

Serving 1,512 houses with a population of 3,960.

These are derived mainly from springs, the water generally being conveyed to storage chambers from which it is piped to the houses.

Twenty-three samples were taken during routine sampling of sixteen of the private supplies in various parts of the Borough and with two exceptions were satisfactory. Samples were taken from supplies in connection with proposals to improve the supplies at two farms. In the latter part of the year a series of eighteen samples were taken from the private supply used, together with the Corporation supply, at Dobroyd Castle School. The reports on the bacteriological examination of these samples, showed there was intermittent pollution of the supply and the facts were reported to the School Authority and they were giving attention to the matter.

SECTION VI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

HOUSING.

Rainfall for 1954 (Fielden Hospital).

January ..	4.43 ins.	September ..	6.79 ins.
February ..	5.17 ,,	October ..	9.24 ,,
March	3.60 ,,	November ..	8.01 ,,
April	.62 ,,	December ..	8.47 ,,
May	3.77 ,,		
June	3.11 ,,		65.71
July	4.87 ,,		
August ..	7.63 ,,		

Drainage and Sewerage.

No extensions of sewers were carried out. Certain portions of the district still require sewering, but in these parts the cost is prohibitive.

Defective sewers are improved as required but no major works of repair or improvement were carried out during the year.

All sewage is treated at the Corporation Sewage Works which are adequate for the needs of the Borough.

There have been no complaints from the West Riding Rivers Board in respect of the effluent from the Sewage Works.

Rivers and Streams.

No action has been taken during the year to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Closet Accommodation.

The following table shows the number of the various types of closets in the Borough :—

Privies with covered middens		..	..about 70
Pail or Tub Closets	(a) Houses	..	.. 392
	(b) Workplaces		.. 26
TOTAL		.. ..	418
Water Closets	(a) Houses	.. .. ..	5718
	(b) Workplaces	.. ..	666
TOTAL		.. ..	6384
Waste Water Closets		.. ..	231

Number of additional Closets provided :—
Old property (a) W.C.'s 17 (b) Others 0
New houses (a) W.C.'s 7 (b) Others 0
Number of Closets, other than privies, reconstructed as W.C.'s—8.

With a view to securing the conversion of pail closets and slop closets to water closets the Corporation contribute one-half of the cost of conversion to a maximum of £10 per closet.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Late in January the Dennis 7 cubic yard refuse collector, fitted with a Diesel engine, was delivered and put into use in place of an old vehicle, and has given satisfactory service. The collection of refuse, including nightsoil, is done by this vehicle and the Lewin Refuse Collector, both being used full time on the work, providing for a weekly collection in the Borough, except for outlying districts where a fortnightly collection is made. The collection of nightsoil is done by the Dennis vehicle fitted with a moveable tank and the contents are disposed of at the Sewage Disposal Works.

All the refuse is disposed of at Woodhouse Tip where the system of "controlled tipping" combined with salvage recovery is in operation. The salvage recovery comprises the collection

and, where necessary, the sorting from the refuse of various materials such as waste paper, scrap metals, rags, carpets. Almost all the waste paper is collected separately during the collection of refuse, in addition to which there is a special collection from factories and business premises.

The weight of refuse collected during the year was 4106 tons, and the cost of collection and disposal was £6,910. The income from the sale of salvaged materials, charges for tipping, etc., was £2,025, giving a net cost for collection and disposal of refuse of £,4885.

The following are the various items of salvage recovered during the year, with the proceeds.

	Tons	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	239¼ ...	1563	19	11
Ferrous metals	13½ ...	46	0	3
Non-ferrous metals	1 ...	71	12	6
Textiles (rags, carpets, etc.) ...	11 ...	157	18	6
Miscellaneous	¼ ...	5	7	8
TOTAL ...	265 ...	£1844	18	10

In comparison with the previous year the total weight of salvage recovered shows an increase of 46 tons, waste paper being 42 tons more, and ferrous metal being 4 tons more, whilst non-ferrous metals and textiles show little change.

The selling price of waste paper remained steady for the greater part of the year with a rise of ten shillings per ton in November. There was a steady demand for our output of baled paper.

The payment by the Council of incentive bonus for the employees of the Scavenging Department was continued during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1954, for Nuisances only	185
Nuisances found in 1954	83
Nuisances in hand, end of 1953	8
Total needing abatement	91
Abated during 1954	81
Outstanding, end of 1954	10
Notices served, Informal	83
Complied with	81
Notices served, Statutory	—
Complied with	—
Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings	—

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	General Conditions	Legal proceedings if any
Common Lodging Houses ..	0	0	0		
Houses let in Lodgings	0	0	0		
Canal Boats	0	0	0		
Knackers Yards ..	0	0	0		
Tents, Vans & Sheds	3	3	5		
Offensive Trades—					
2 Tripe Boilers 1 Fat Melter 6 Dressing Hides for Pickers or Tanners.	9	9	4	Satisfactory	None

Eradication of Bed Bug.

No instances of bug infestation of houses, either Council or other, were found during the year.

Factories and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	29	None	None
FACTORIES without mechanical power	9	None	None
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)...	3	None	None
TOTAL	41	None	None

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	None	None
Overcrowding (S.2)	None			
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	None			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	None			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...	None			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
insufficient	1	1	—	
unsuitable or defective ...	None	—	—	
not separate for sexes ...	None	—	—	
Other offences	None	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	None	None

Summary of the Work Done during 1954.

Inspections of Premises—

For nuisances, etc.	274
Where infectious disease has occurred ...	35
Where offensive trades are carried on ...	4
Inspections of Factories	11
Inspections of Bakehouses	30
Inspections of Ice Cream premises and shops	19
Inspections under Rats and Mice Destruction Act	96
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	96
Inspections of Water Supplies	9
Inspections of Work in Progress	96
Inspections under the Housing Act 1936 ...	47
Re-inspections under the Housing Act, 1936	32
Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	48
Inspections under Public Health Acts ...	32
Inspections under Closet Conversion Scheme	8
Inspections of Food Premises and Shops ...	53
Miscellaneous inspections	15
Visits to food shops for special enquiry ...	128
Total Visits...	1033

No. of houses disinfected after	
(1) infectious disease	2
(2) tuberculosis	6
Smoke test applied to drains	8
Smoke observations taken	30
Samples of water taken for analysis ...	13
Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination	71
Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination	8
Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination	17
No. of complaints investigated	179
Cases abated under preliminary notice ...	148
Cases abated under statutory notice ...	5
Cases dealt with under Closet Conversion Scheme	8

Summary of Work Carried Out in Compliance with Notices, etc., during 1954.

House Drainage—

House drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	46
New pipe drains provided	1
House drains connected to sewer	—
Drains trapped	1

Sanitary Conveniences—

New water closets provided	17
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	17
Waste water closets converted into water closets	8
Water closets abolished	1

Factories and Bakehouses—

Bakehouses limewashed or painted	1
Sanitary conveniences cleansed and repaired ...	1
New conveniences provided...	1

Houses dealt with under Housing Act and Public Health Act

Houses repaired by informal notice	13
Houses repaired by statutory notice	—
Houses demolished	5

Miscellaneous—

No. of cases of overcrowding abated	5
No. of condemnations of unsound food	46
No. of premises disinfested, ...	2
Accumulations of refuse, etc., removed	5
No. of houses provided with proper water supply	—
No. of sinks provided	2
No. of ashpits closed...	2
No. of dustbins provided	4
No. of dust bins sold by Health Dept.	178

Mortuary Accommodation.

For accidents	One Mortuary : two slabs.
For infectious cases, other than at hospitals ..	None
Facilities for post-mortem examination ? ..	Yes.
Mortuary accommodation sufficient ?	Yes.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of milk distributors registered 75

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGS., 1949

Number of licences in force for :	Dealers	Supplementary
Pasteurised Milk	17 ...	5
Sterilised Milk	59 ...	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGS., 1949

Number of licences in force for	Dealers	Supplementary
Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	16 ...	5

Number of licences in force for production of milk

Tuberculin Tested	5
Accredited	1

Meat Inspection

For the first half of the year centralised slaughtering at the Halifax Abattoir continued in operation under the control of meat supplies. There were two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough—one at Pavement, and the other at Bottoms, Walsden.

The control of meat supplies ceased at the end of June prior to which date the Council were required to ensure that sufficient slaughtering accommodation was available to the meat traders in the Borough, such accommodation being either in the Borough or elsewhere. Prolonged consideration was given to this matter, including consultation with the meat traders, and the preparation of a scheme for the Council

to make a former private slaughterhouse at Naylor Mill into a public one. In the end this scheme was not acceptable to the meat traders and was abandoned, which left the two existing private slaughterhouses available for immediate use. Later the premises at Naylor Mill were put in order and brought into use as a private licensed slaughterhouse in October.

The following table gives the results of meat inspection at the three slaughterhouses for the six months period:

	Cattle inc'g. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	69	68	30	548	51
Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	10	—	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	1.44	14.70	—	4.92	—
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	3	18	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.34	26.47	—	—	11.76

Other Foods

The unsound food condemned during the year comprised the following: 55½ lbs. of sausages, 13½ lbs. of cooked meats, and 82 cans of various foods, mainly meat and fruit.

Sixteen samples of ordinary milk produced and distributed in the Borough were submitted to the "methylene blue" test for designated milk and fifteen satisfied the test. The appropriate Officer of the County Agricultural Committee was informed of the sample which failed to satisfy the test. One sample of milk from a local farm was examined for the presence of tuberculosis with a negative result.

There are two makers of ice-cream in the Borough and ice-cream from makers outside the Borough is sold at approximately 59 shops. Eight samples of ice-cream were submitted to bacteriological examination, seven being in Grade I and the other in Grade II.

One premises used by a registered hawker of food was registered for the storage of food under the W.R.C.C. (General Powers) Act 1951, the premises having been made suitable.

177 inspections were made of premises where food is prepared or sold, including slaughterhouses, bakehouses, ice-cream manufactories, tripe works, grocers and butchers' shops. The premises were found to be in a satisfactory structural condition and to be kept in a cleanly state. Works of extension and other improvements have been carried out under supervision at several premises.

Smoke Abatement

During the year 30 observations of 30 minutes duration were taken of factory chimneys and in no case did the amount of black smoke emitted exceed the period allowed by the Byelaw of the Council. In the majority of cases no black smoke was emitted but in a few where considerable smoke was emitted visits were paid and the Engineer or Fireman seen with a view to reduction of smoke. Similar action was taken on occasions when excessive smoke was noticed during the course of other duties.

In the early part of the year the owners of factories with chimneys serving coal fired boilers were written to on the instructions of the Council asking for their co-operation with the object of reducing as far as practicable the nuisance to public health from the pollution of the air by smoke. Representations were also made by the Council to the British Transport Commission as to the nuisance caused by smoke from their steam locomotives in the district.

Generally speaking most of the factory chimneys are reasonably free from the emission of excessive smoke but there are some which intermittently emit too much smoke for short periods at fairly long intervals.

Rodent Control.

Investigations were made at seventy-one premises in connection with rodent infestation—forty-nine by rats and twenty-two by mice. The premises treated for rats included fourteen houses, eight factories, six food premises, the refuse tip, and the river.

The sewers in the greater part of the Borough were treated for rats in the early part of the year in continuation of a treatment begun in the previous year. A test baiting of the sewers was carried out late in August. The results of these operations were forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture,

Treatments for mice infestation were carried out at twenty-two premises, including houses, schools, food premises, etc.

Treatment of premises for rats and mice, apart from sewers, is effected by the use of a poison known as "Warfarin" and no prebating is required, as is the case when using other poisons. Further since only a very low concentration of Warfarin is needed its use materially reduces the risk to other animals.

Housing.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

No action was taken with respect to new Clearance Areas. In the Shade Clearance Area the last occupied house was vacated and this and three adjoining houses were demolished, leaving eight houses, some of which are derelict, to be demolished.

One Demolition Order was made in respect of an unoccupied unfit house and the house was demolished in compliance with the Order.

Twenty-eight houses were inspected of which two were considered to be unfit for habitation. The owner of one of these agreed not to let it again for habitation and the other house, with the consent of the Council, is to be converted for use other than as a dwelling. In eleven of the houses various defects, such as leaking roofs, defective eavestroughs, windows, etc., were found which required attention and the owners were requested by informal notice to carry out the necessary repairs, and during the year repairs were carried out at thirteen houses, including some standing over from the previous year.

OVERCROWDING: Five cases of overcrowding, affecting twenty-eight persons, were abated during the year, and two new cases were recorded. At the end of the year eight houses were recorded as being overcrowded, affecting eight families with fifty-six persons.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS: Sixteen houses were inspected in connection with enquiries and applications for Improvement Grants. Of the applications considered by the Housing Committee ten were granted, two were refused, and one deferred. All the houses concerned were for owner-occupiers and the improvements were mainly the provision of bathroom

with hot water supply, inside water closet and proper food store. One of the approved applications was for the conversion of two back-to-back houses into one through house with necessary improvements.

Certificates of Disrepair: Three applications for certificates were received and considered by the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose. Two of the applications were granted and one refused.